(c) and (d) According to information collected by Council for Leather Exports, it is expected that an investment of US $ 50 million during the current year will be made by foreign investors and it is likely to go up to US $ 100 million next year. About 50 companies have shown interest for going in for joint ventures.

(e) On the basis of reports received from participants, business worth Rs. 91 crores was finalised at the fair. An additional Rs. 201 crores worth of business was under negotiation.

Recasting of ESI Scheme

*373. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Business Standard of 2nd February, 1993 captioned "Labour Ministers urge centre to recast ESI";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what are the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon together with the present status in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Labour Ministers' Conference which had met on August 13, 1992 and which inter alia was to discuss matters relating to health cover for workers took a decision to go into the operation of the ESI Scheme in an exclusive conference of State Labour Ministers to be held in Bombay. Based on the recommendations of this Conference further action would be taken.

374.[*Transferred to the 18th March,* 1993]

Export of High Grade Minerals

*375. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of high grade bauxite, iron and manganese ore being exported annually;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to stop the export of these items; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) The total quantum of high grade bauxite, iron ore and manganese ore exported during the last three years has been as under :—

(Qty. : in lakh tons)

Year	Iron ore (Fe +65%)	Bauxite (A. 1203 +54%)	Manganese ore (Mn +46%)
1990-91	122.17	—	—
1991-92	122.51	—	—
1992-93 (Apr. '92-Feb. '93) (Prov.)	87.46	0.11	—

(b) and (c) Exports of high grade bauxite, iron ore and manganese ore are regulated through canalisation/export licensing, keeping in view the surplus available after meeting the domestic requirements, conservation angle and the